

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 NEA-14

EB-11 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /132 W
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O R 130930Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4567

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: ANOTHER POSSIBLE CRISIS FOR COALITION

REF ANKARA 4408

1. PARLIAMENT SCHEDULED TO VOTE THIS AFTERNOON (JUNE 13) ON WHETHER TO DEBATE OPPOSITION'S CENSURE MOTION AGAINST MIN EDUCATION USTUNDAG (REFTEL. PRIMIN ECEVIT HAS TOLD PRESS HE WOULD MAKE PARLIAMENT'S ACTION A VOTE OF CNFIDENCE: AND ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE WAS REFERRING TO TODAY'S VOTE OR TO POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT VOTE ON MOTION ITSELF, IT IS CLEAR THAT IF GOVT LOSES TODAY'S VOTE BASIS FOR COALITION PROBABLY WOULD CEASE TO EXIST.

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2. KEY POWER IS HELD BY 20 DISSIDENTS IN NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), WHO BROKE COALITION RANKS LAST MONTH IN VOTING ON AMNESTY BILL AND CAUSED CRISIS IN GOVT. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT WHICH WAY THEY WILL VOTE. HOWEVER, WEAKNESS OF DISCIPLINE IN NSP WAS DEMONSTRATED JUNE 11 WHEN ALL NSP MEMBERS EXCEPT CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN VOTED FOR DEMOCRATIC PARTY BILL TO CHANGE WEEKLY DAY REST TO FRIDAY (MEASURE WAS DEFEATED BY VOTES OF DOMINANT COALITION PARTNER, REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY, WITH JUSTICE PARTY ABSENT). RPP IS INSISTING THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS BE PRESENT TO VOTE TODAY, ALTHOUGH FONMIN GUNES HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO GO AHEAD WITH VISIT TO DAMASCUS.

3. JP CHAIRMAN DEMIREL IN TWO PUBLIC STATEMENTS THIS WEEK HAS MAINTAINED THAT PUBLIC SHOULD NOT FEAR GOVT CRISIS, CONTENDING THAT SUCH SITUATION WOULD BE BETTER THAN ALLOWING PRESENT GOVT TO STAY IN POWER. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE COALITION. THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRESS IN FORMING "NATIONAL FRONT" OF RIGHTIST PARTIES, AND EX-PRES CELAL BAYAR'S PLANNED VISIT TO ANKARA IN THIS CONNECTION DID NOT COME OFF (REFTEL).

4. COMMENT: QUESTION OF WHAT HAPPENS IF GOVT RESIGNS IS OPEN TO CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION. PRESIDENT MIGHT WELL ASK PRIMIN ECEVIT TO STAY ON IN CARETAKER CAPACITY, IN WHICH HE COULD CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME. SINCE JP CHAIRMAN DEMIREL REPORTEDLY IS NOT INTERESTED IN FORMING A COALITION, HE MIGHT WELL SEE HIS INTERESTS BEST SERVED BY WEAK MINORITY GOVT HEADED BY ECEVIT, WHICH OPPOSITION COULD KEEP UNDER CONTROL, AND WHICH WOULD SERVE AS USEFUL CAMPAIGN TARGET IF ELECTIONS ARE HELD NEXT YEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE ALSO THAT THE RIGHT MIGHT ATTEMPT TO FORM A COALITION OF ITS OWN. MACOMBER

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